

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 14-26 are pending. Claims 1-13 were canceled in a previous amendment. Claims 23-26 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 14-19, and 21 are amended. Support for the amendment to Claim 14 can be found in numbered paragraph [0032] of the published application and in Fig. 1E, for example. Support for the amendments to Claims 15-19 and 21 is self-evident. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Restriction Requirement dated April 12, 2006, was made final. Claim 21 was objected to for a minor informality. Claims 14-16 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Gressenich et al. (German Patent No. 196 33 706, herein "Gressenich"). Claims 17 and 22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich in view of Goetz et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,717,189, herein "Goetz") of Hoffmann (U.S. Patent No. 5,155,338, herein "Hoffmann"). Claims 18 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich in view of Kosmas et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,492,624, herein "Kosmas"). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as obvious over Gressenich in view of Medwick et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,849,328, herein "Medwick").

Regarding the objection to Claim 21 for a minor informality, Claim 21 is amended to recite "the first surface" instead of "the surface with pegs." In light of this amendment and the amendment to Claim 14 regarding first and second surfaces, Applicants respectfully submit that the objection to Claim 21 is overcome.

Regarding the rejection of independent Claim 14 as anticipated by Gressenich, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

Amended independent Claim 14 recites:

A glass-ceramic plate comprising:
a first surface provided with pegs, the plate configured to equip a hob; and
a second surface, opposite the first surface,
wherein at least one smooth region, free of pegs, is reserved in a location on the first surface, in a mounted position, face to face with one or more elements viewable through the at least one smooth region, and the second surface includes a raised boss or a groove in a neighboring area opposite the at least one smooth region.

Accordingly, the surface opposite the plate with pegs includes a raised boss or groove. The raised boss or groove is disposed opposite the smooth region on the first surface.

In contrast, as shown in Figs. 3a, 3b, 4a, and 4b of Gressenich, the surface opposite the surface including knobs (3) is completely flat. Nowhere in Gressenich is a raised boss or groove in a neighboring area opposite the at least one smooth region of a plate disclosed as recited in amended independent Claim 14. Rather, only a single side of the plate described in Gressenich is altered so as not to be completely flat. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 14 patentably distinguishes over Gressenich for at least the reasons discussed above.

Claims 15, 16, and 20 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 14 and patentably distinguish over Gressenich for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 14 does.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 17 and 22 as obvious over Gressenich in view of either Goetz or Hoffmann, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

As discussed above regarding Gressenich, amended independent Claim 14 recites a first surface including pegs and a second surface including a raised boss or groove in a neighboring area opposite at least one smooth region on the first surface. As further discussed above, amended independent Claim 14 patentably distinguishes over Gressenich as

Gressenich fails to disclose at least the above discussed features recited in amended independent Claim 14.

Goetz, like Gressenich, fails to disclose a first surface including pegs and a second surface opposite the first surface and including a raised boss or groove in a neighboring area opposite at least one smooth region on the first surface as recited in amended independent Claim 14. As shown in Fig. 6 of Goetz, the glass plate (31) is perfectly smooth and flat on its top surface. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Goetz fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich, and amended independent Claim 14 and Claims 17 and 20 depending therefrom patentably distinguish over any reasonable combination of Gressenich and Goetz for at least the reasons discussed above.

Hoffmann as shown in Figs. 1, 2, and 3, describes only a perfectly flat glass sheet (2) and does not describe a second surface including a raised boss or groove opposite at least one smooth region on a first surface as recited in amended independent Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Hoffmann fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich. Thus, dependent Claims 17 and 22 patentably distinguish over any reasonable combination of Gressenich and Hoffmann for at least the reasons discussed above.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 18 and 19 as obvious over Gressenich in view of Kosmas, Applicants respectfully submit that as Claims 18 and 19 depend from amended independent Claim 14, Claims 18 and 19 patentably distinguish over Gressenich for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 14 does.

Regarding Kosmas, Applicants respectfully submit that Kosmas fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich. Kosmas relates to an upper surface of a cook top that has at least one groove-shaped depression.¹ As shown in Figs. 1b, 2b, 3b, 6b,

¹ Kosmas, Abstract.

7b, and 8a-8d, the glass plate (1) and has no pegs as recited in amended independent Claim 14, and therefore, has no smooth region, free of pegs, **reserved** in a location on the first surface. Rather, the entire bottom surface of the glass plate (1) has the same type of surface and no particular part is "reserved" relative to another part that includes pegs. Accordingly, Kosmas does not teach or suggest a raised boss or groove in a neighboring area **opposite a smooth region which is free of pegs and reserved in a location on the first surface of a plate** as recited in amended independent Claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that no reasonable combination of Gressenich and Kosmas would include all of the features recited in amended independent Claim 14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that dependent Claims 18 and 19, depending from amended independent Claim 14, patentably distinguish over any reasonable combination of the cited references for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 14 does.

Regarding the rejection of Claim 21 as obvious over Gressenich in view of Medwick, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response.

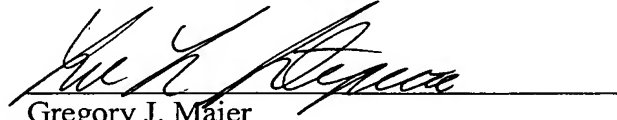
Medwick fails to remedy the deficiencies discussed above regarding Gressenich. Medwick relates to a method and coating provided to protect a substrate during shipping.² Medwick is unconcerned with adding a raised boss or groove to an area opposite a smooth region, free of pegs, **reserved** in a location on a first surface of to a glass plate including pegs. As shown in Fig. 1, the coating (14) is applied only to a flat substrate (12). Nowhere in Medwick is a glass-ceramic plate with a raised boss or groove as recited in amended Claim 14 disclosed. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 21, depending from amended independent Claim 14, patentably distinguishes over any reasonable combination of Gressenich and Medwick for at least the reasons discussed above.

² Medwick, Abstract.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 25,599

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)

Lee L. Stepina
Registration No. 56,837